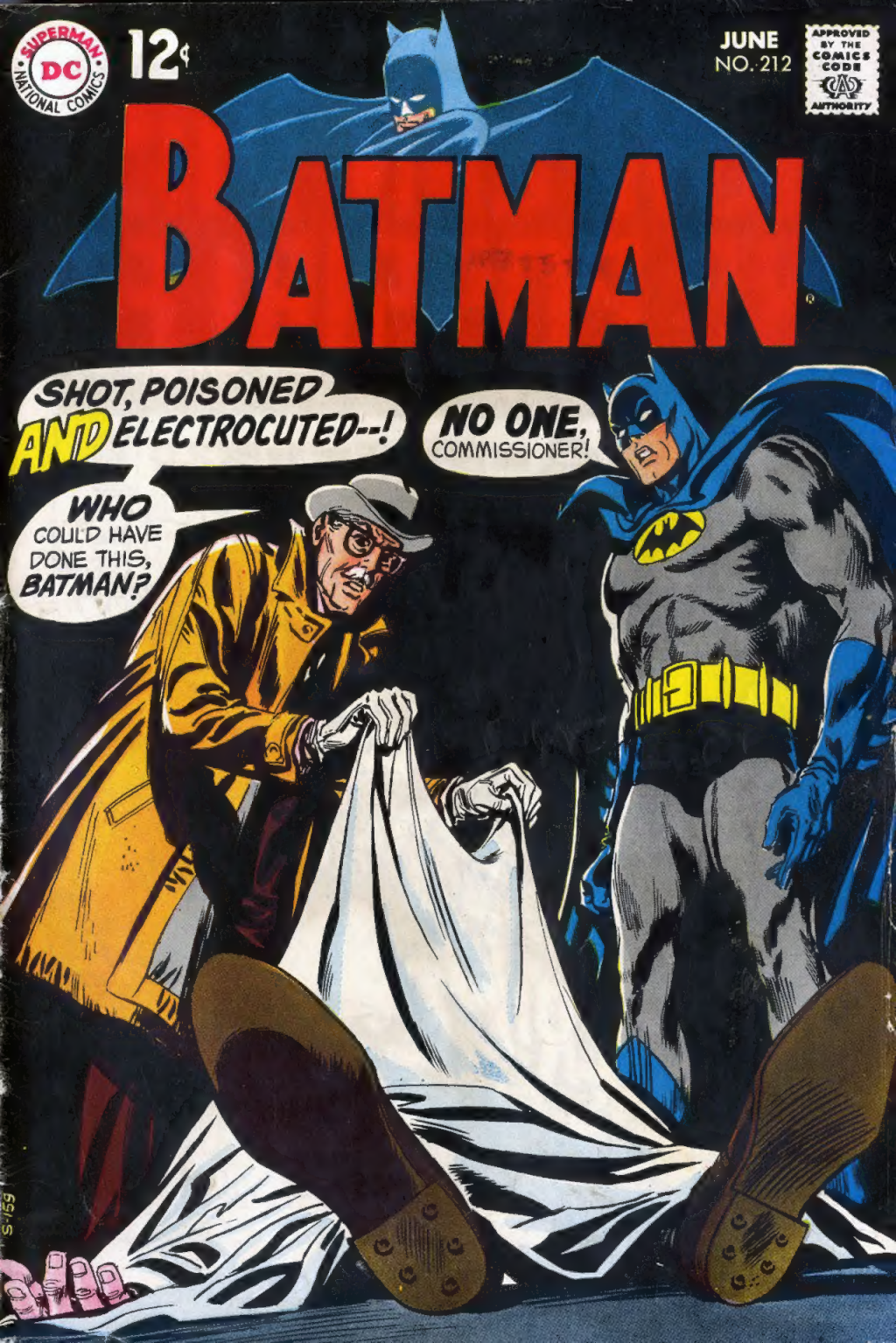
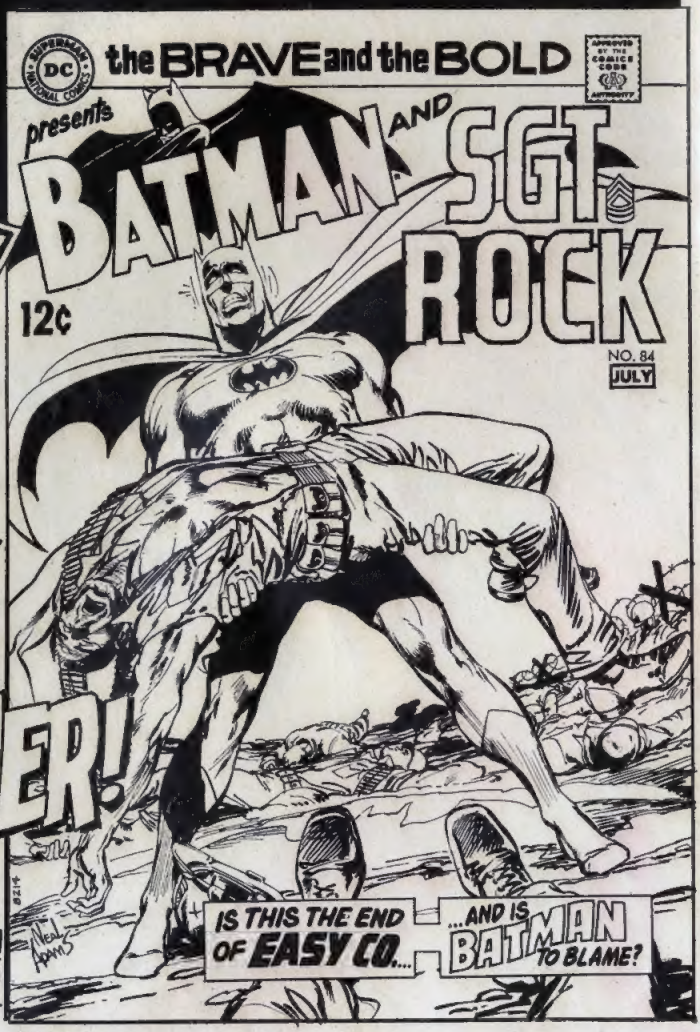

SUPERMAN
DC
NATIONAL COMICS
12¢
JUNE
NO. 212
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
BATMAN
SHOT, POISONED AND ELECTROCUTED--!
WHO COULD HAVE DONE THIS, BATMAN?
NO ONE, COMMISSIONER!
S-159

HOW CAN THIS BE POSSIBLE?

BATMAN AND SGT. ROCK TOGETHER!

FIND OUT IN THE JULY EXCITING ISSUE of BRAVE & BOLD! ON SALE APRIL 22ND



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BATMAN
With ROBIN THE BOY WONDER
STORY BY: FRANK ROBBINS
ART BY: IRV NOVICK & JOE GIELLA
OBVIOUSLY, BATMAN--AN OPEN-AND-SHUT CASE OF MURDER! THE QUESTION IS HOW DID THE VICTIM DIE? BY BULLET--POISON DART--OR ELECTROCUTION? OR WAS IT ALL THREE?
NEITHER, COMMISSIONER GORDON! HE OBVIOUSLY DIED OF NATURAL CAUSES!
BY BULLET...?
MASHED SLUG
...POISON DART?...
POISON DART
...OR BY ELECTROCUTION?
5-110
1

AN AMAZING CONCLUSION--CONSIDERING THE IRREFUTABLE EVIDENCE TO THE **CONTRARY!** HAS **BATMAN** LOST CONTACT WITH **REALITY**--OR HAS HIS BRILLIANT MIND FERRETED OUT CLUES THAT ELUDE EVEN THE BEST CRIMINOLOGISTS IN **GOTHAM CITY?** WE CHALLENGE YOU TO PIT YOUR DEDUCTIVE ABILITIES AGAINST THE **WORLD'S GREATEST DETECTIVE** IN THE ASTOUNDING CASE OF THE--

"BAFFLING DEATHS OF THE CRIME-CZAR!"

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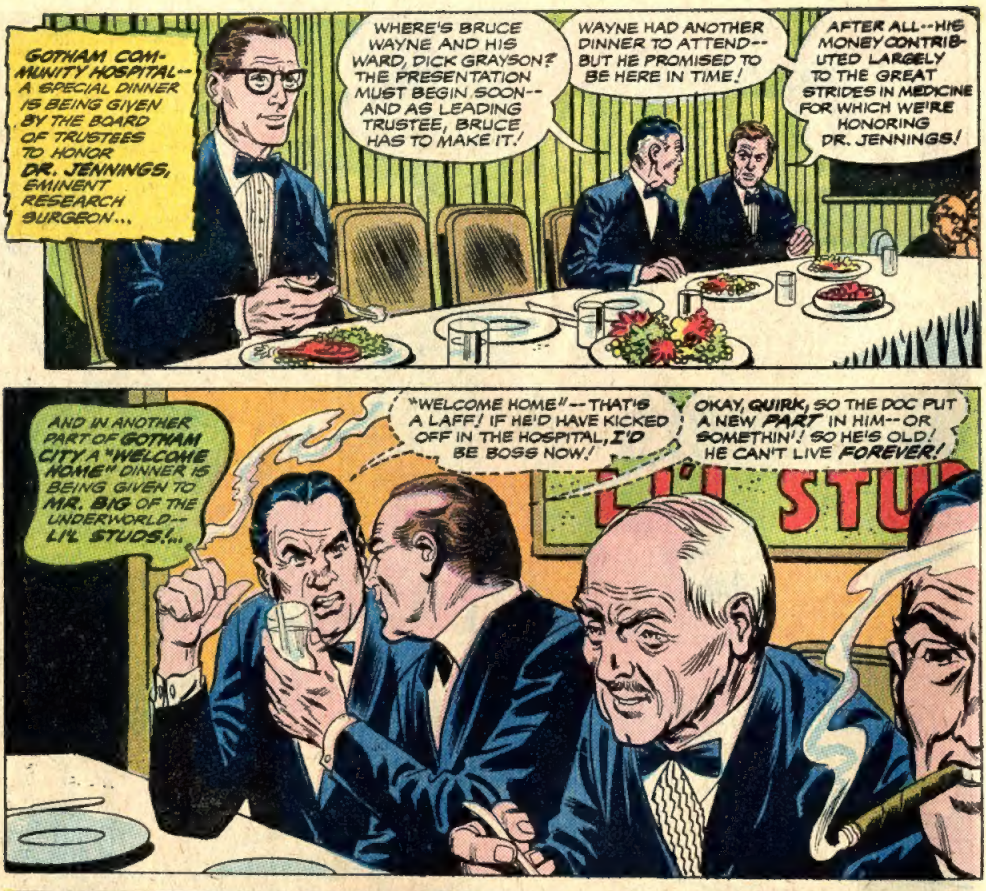
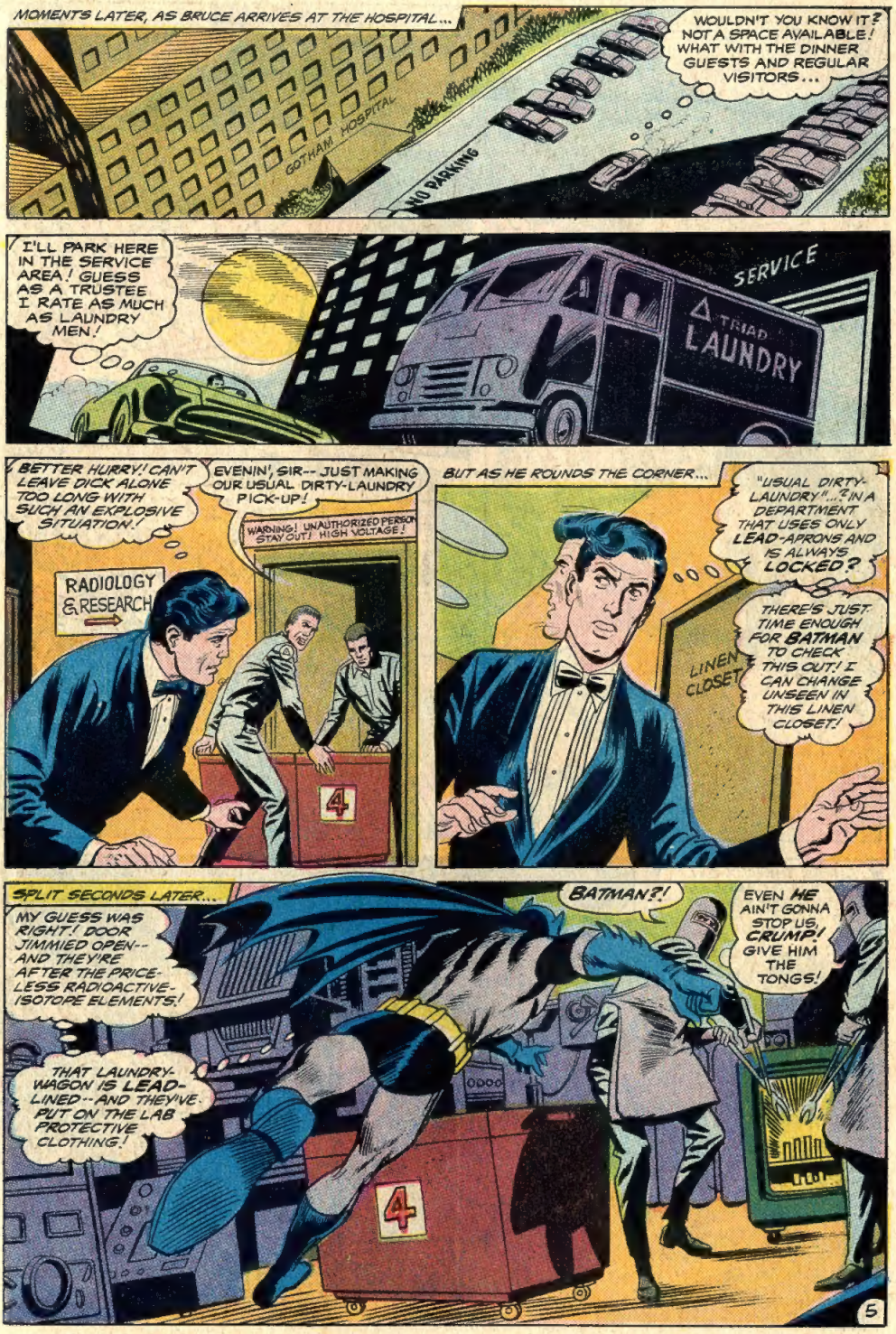

GOTHAM COMMUNITY HOSPITAL--A SPECIAL DINNER IS BEING GIVEN BY THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES TO HONOR DR. JENNINGS, EMINENT RESEARCH SURGEON...
WHERE'S BRUCE WAYNE AND HIS WARD, DICK GRAYSON? THE PRESENTATION MUST BEGIN SOON--AND AS LEADING TRUSTEE, BRUCE HAS TO MAKE IT!
WAYNE HAD ANOTHER DINNER TO ATTEND--BUT HE PROMISED TO BE HERE IN TIME!
AFTER ALL--HIS MONEY CONTRIBUTED LARGELY TO THE GREAT STRIDES IN MEDICINE FOR WHICH WE'RE HONORING DR. JENNINGS!
AND IN ANOTHER PART OF GOTHAM CITY, A "WELCOME HOME" DINNER IS BEING GIVEN TO MR. BIG OF THE UNDERWORLD--LI'L STUDS!...
"WELCOME HOME"--THAT'S A LAFF! IF HE'D HAVE KICKED OFF IN THE HOSPITAL, I'D BE BOSS NOW!
OKAY, QUIRK, SO THE DOC PUT A NEW PART IN HIM--OR SOMETHIN'! SO HE'S OLD! HE CAN'T LIVE FOREVER!
BUT I COULD DIE OF OLD AGE FIRST!--WHILE HE LOOKS BETTER THAN BEFORE THE OPERATION!
HE'S GOT TO GO--TONIGHT! AND I'VE GOT IT ALL ARRANGED!
BUT THIS IS THE OTHER DINNER BRUCE (BATMAN) WAYNE AND DICK (ROBIN) GRAYSON HAD TO ATTEND! BUT NOT AS HONORED GUESTS...
I HATE TO THINK, BRUCE, WHAT WE'D BE IN FOR IF THAT MOB OUT THERE SUSPECTED WHO WE ARE...
GUESS WE'D BE SERVED UP AS THE MAIN COURSE, DICK! BUT WE'VE GOT TO COVER THIS GANGLAND SHINDIG!
ANY NUMBER OF "WELL-WISHERS" HERE TONIGHT WOULD'VE PREFERRED THAT LI'L STUDS HAD DIED IN THE HOSPITAL! BUT NOW THAT HE'S BACK BETTER THAN NEW...
...SOMEONE'S BOUND TO GET IMPATIENT!

IF HE'S KNOCKED OFF, THE BIGGEST AND BLOODIEST STRUGGLE FOR POWER GOTHAM'S EVER SEEN COULD ERUPT!
WITH A LOT OF INNOCENT CITIZENS GETTING CAUGHT IN THE CROSS-FIRE! SO WE'RE SELF-ELECTED... BODY-GUARDS FOR THE CZAR OF THE UNDERWORLD!
KEEP YOUR EYES--AND EARS--OPEN, DICK! I DON'T THINK ANY OF LI'L STUDS' ENEMIES WOULD MAKE A MOVE THEMSELVES...
BUT THEY COULD'VE HIRED AN OUT-OF-TOWN-KILLER!
AT THAT MOMENT OUTSIDE THE GOTHAM HOTEL...
REAL SWEET OF QUIRK SENDING A CAR TO MEET US AT THE AIRPORT!
AND EVEN SWEETER WHAT HE'S PROMISED US FOR THE HIT ON LI'L STUDS!
HOW CAN WE MISS? THREE OF THE TOUGHEST TORPEDOES IN THE BUSINESS... ALL COMBINING OUR TALENTS FOR ONE KILL!
GOTHAM HOTEL
AND PULLING UP TO THE SERVICE ENTRANCE...
TAKE THE BACK STAIRS UP TO THE BALLROOM! THE BOSS DOESN'T WANT YOU SHOULD BE SEEN!
RELAX, BABY! WE'RE NEVER SEEN... OR HEARD!
THEY DON'T CALL ME THE SILENCER FOR NOTHIN'!
THE DART AIN'T EXACTLY A BLOW-HARD, BUT--THESE POISON DARTS DON'T EVEN WHISPER!
BIG JOLT HAS A SURPRISE PACKAGE THAT'S REALLY A--SHOCKER!
3

OKAY, LET'S SPLIT-- AND TAKE UP POSITIONS!
WE TAKE OUR CUE FROM QUIRK WHEN HE MAKES THE "WELCOME HOME" SPIEL TO OUR TARGET!
AND WE ALL OPEN UP WHEN LI'L STUDS STARTS TO CUT THE CAKE! HEH! HEH!
THEY'RE ON THEIR DESSERT COURSE-- AND NOTHING'S HAPPENED YET! MAYBE THIS WAS A FALSE HUNCH...
SURE LOOKS PEACEFUL, BRUCE--TOO PEACEFUL! REMEMBER, YOU'VE GOT TO MAKE THAT PRESENTATION TO DR. JENNINGS SOON!
HATE TO LEAVE NOW! SOMETHING COULD HAPPEN AT ANY MOMENT...
CHANCES ARE IT WON'T-- LEAST NOT TILL YOU GET BACK! THE HOSPITAL-BIT SHOULD ONLY TAKE A HALF-HOUR!
I'LL COVER FOR YOU, BRUCE! NOTHING WILL ESCAPE MY EYE!
WHILE OFF STAGE, OUT OF SIGHT...
QUIRK SURE HAS A SENSAHUMOR... GIVING LI'L STUDS "GOTHAM CITY" ON A SILVER PLATTER! AS IF HE HASN'T CARVED UP ENOUGH TERRITORY ALREADY!
BUT BIG JOLT IS TAKING A SLICE FIRST!


MOMENTS LATER, AS BRUCE ARRIVES AT THE HOSPITAL...
GOTHAM HOSPITAL
NO PARKING
WOULDN'T YOU KNOW IT? NOT A SPACE AVAILABLE! WHAT WITH THE DINNER GUESTS AND REGULAR VISITORS...
I'LL PARK HERE IN THE SERVICE AREA! GUESS AS A TRUSTEE I RATE AS MUCH AS LAUNDRY MEN!
SERVICE
TRIAD LAUNDRY
BETTER HURRY! CAN'T LEAVE DICK ALONE TOO LONG WITH SUCH AN EXPLOSIVE SITUATION!
EVENIN', SIR-- JUST MAKING OUR USUAL DIRTY-LAUNDRY PICK-UP!
WARNING! UNAUTHORIZED PERSON STAY OUT! HIGH VOLTAGE!
RADIOLOGY & RESEARCH
4
BUT AS HE ROUNDS THE CORNER...
"USUAL DIRTY-LAUNDRY"...? IN A DEPARTMENT THAT USES ONLY LEAD-APRONS AND IS ALWAYS LOCKED?
THERE'S JUST TIME ENOUGH FOR BATMAN TO CHECK THIS OUT! I CAN CHANGE UNSEEN IN THIS LINEN CLOSET!
LINEN CLOSET
SPLIT SECONDS LATER...
MY GUESS WAS RIGHT! DOOR JIMMIED OPEN-- AND THEY'RE AFTER THE PRICELESS RADIOACTIVE-ISOTOPE ELEMENTS!
THAT LAUNDRY-WAGON IS LEAD-LINED-- AND THEY'VE PUT ON THE LAB PROTECTIVE CLOTHING!
BATMAN?!
EVEN HE AIN'T GONNA STOP US, CRUMP! GIVE HIM THE TONGS!
4
5

LIKE M'BUDDY SAID-- YOU GET THE TONGS!
ZWOOOOSH!
OWOO! MY HAND!
HEH! HEH! THIS LEAD-APRON IS BETTER'N A BULLET-PROOF VEST!
ZUNG!
WHAT'S THE MATTER, BABY-- HURT YOUR LI'L PAW?
MAYBE A HIT-IN-THE HEAD WITH THESE LEAD-LOADED KNUCKS WILL TAKE A LOAD OFF YOUR MIND!
KAHUNG
I HEAR THESE X-RAY MACHINES CAN BURN RIGHT THROUGH YA-- IF YA JUICE UP THE VOLTAGE HIGH ENOUGH!
YEAH?. HEH! LET'S SEE!
CONTINUED ON 2ND PAGE FOLLOWING.
6

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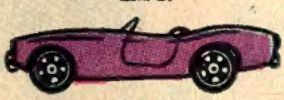
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Cobra GT

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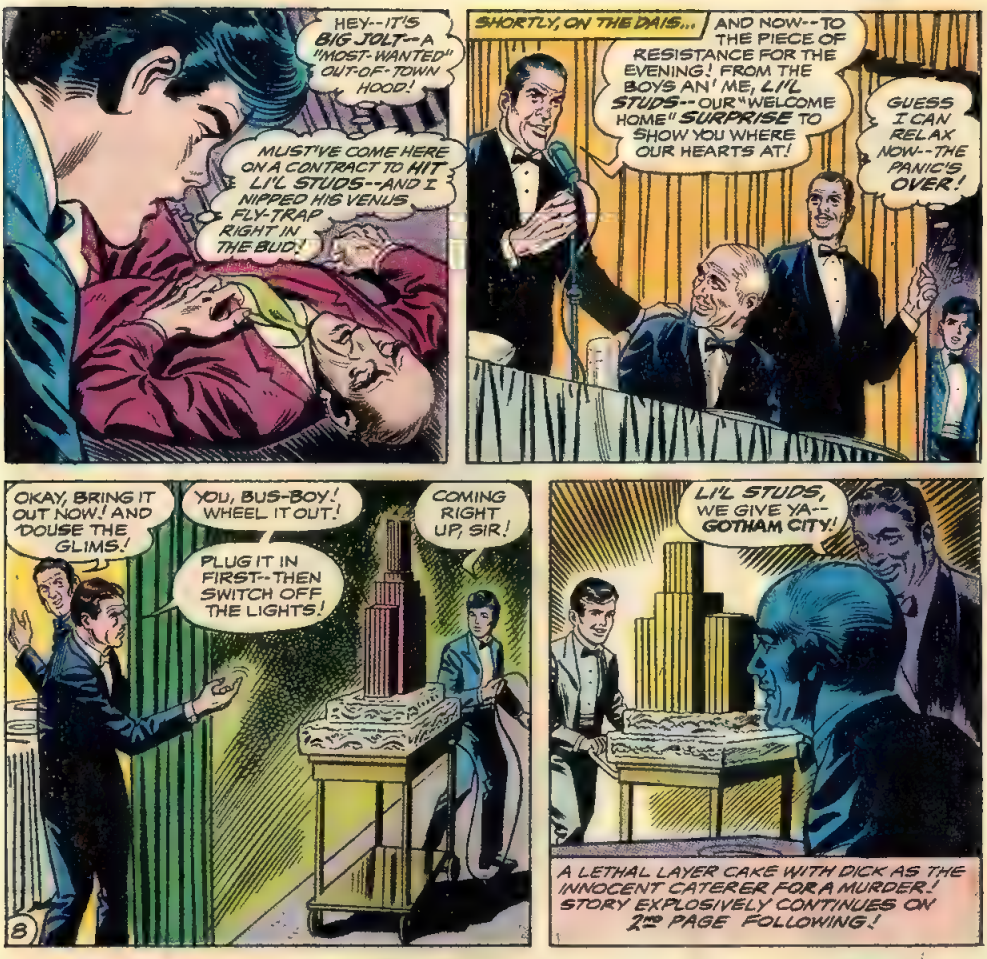
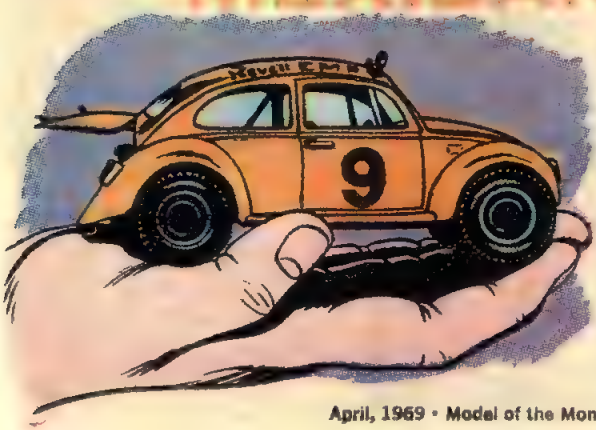
AURORA

WHILE BACK AT THE "WELCOME HOME" BANQUET...
I HATE TO TAKE THE FIRST SLICE OUTA LI'L STUDS' MOUTH, BUT--I'M ONLY BORROWING IT!
I'LL PUT IT BACK WHEN I FINISH WIRING IN MY BIG JOLTER!
I ATTACH IT TO THE SAME WIRES USED FOR LIGHTING UP THE CAKE--AND MY GIZMO STEPS-UP THE VOLTAGE...
...SO WHEN LI'L STUDS MAKES HIS FIRST CUT WITH THE METAL CAKE-KNIFE--ZZZT! KAPOW! HE GETS 20,000 VOLTS RIGHT UP HIS ARM!
THAT FELLOW OVER THERE--WHAT'S HE DOING?
HEY, YOU!
YOU MEAN ME, KID?
KCHUNK
I'M...OLD ENOUGH...TO TAKE CARE OF YOU--BIG SHOT!
PCHOW
7


HEY--IT'S BIG JOLT--A "MOST-WANTED" OUT-OF-TOWN HOOD!
MUST'VE COME HERE ON A CONTRACT TO HIT LI'L STUDS--AND I NIPPED HIS VENUS FLY-TRAP RIGHT IN THE BUD!
SHORTLY, ON THE DAIS...
AND NOW--TO THE PIECE OF RESISTANCE FOR THE EVENING! FROM THE BOYS AN' ME, LI'L STUDS--OUR "WELCOME HOME" SURPRISE TO SHOW YOU WHERE OUR HEARTS AT!
GUESS I CAN RELAX NOW--THE PANIC'S OVER!
OKAY, BRING IT OUT NOW! AND DOUSE THE GLIMS!
YOU, BUS-BOY! WHEEL IT OUT!
COMING RIGHT UP, SIR!
PLUG IT IN FIRST--THEN SWITCH OFF THE LIGHTS!
8
LI'L STUDS, WE GIVE YA--GOTHAM CITY!
A LETHAL LAYER CAKE WITH DICK AS THE INNOCENT CATERER FOR A MURDER! STORY EXPLOSIVELY CONTINUES ON 2ND PAGE FOLLOWING!

MEXICAN BUG



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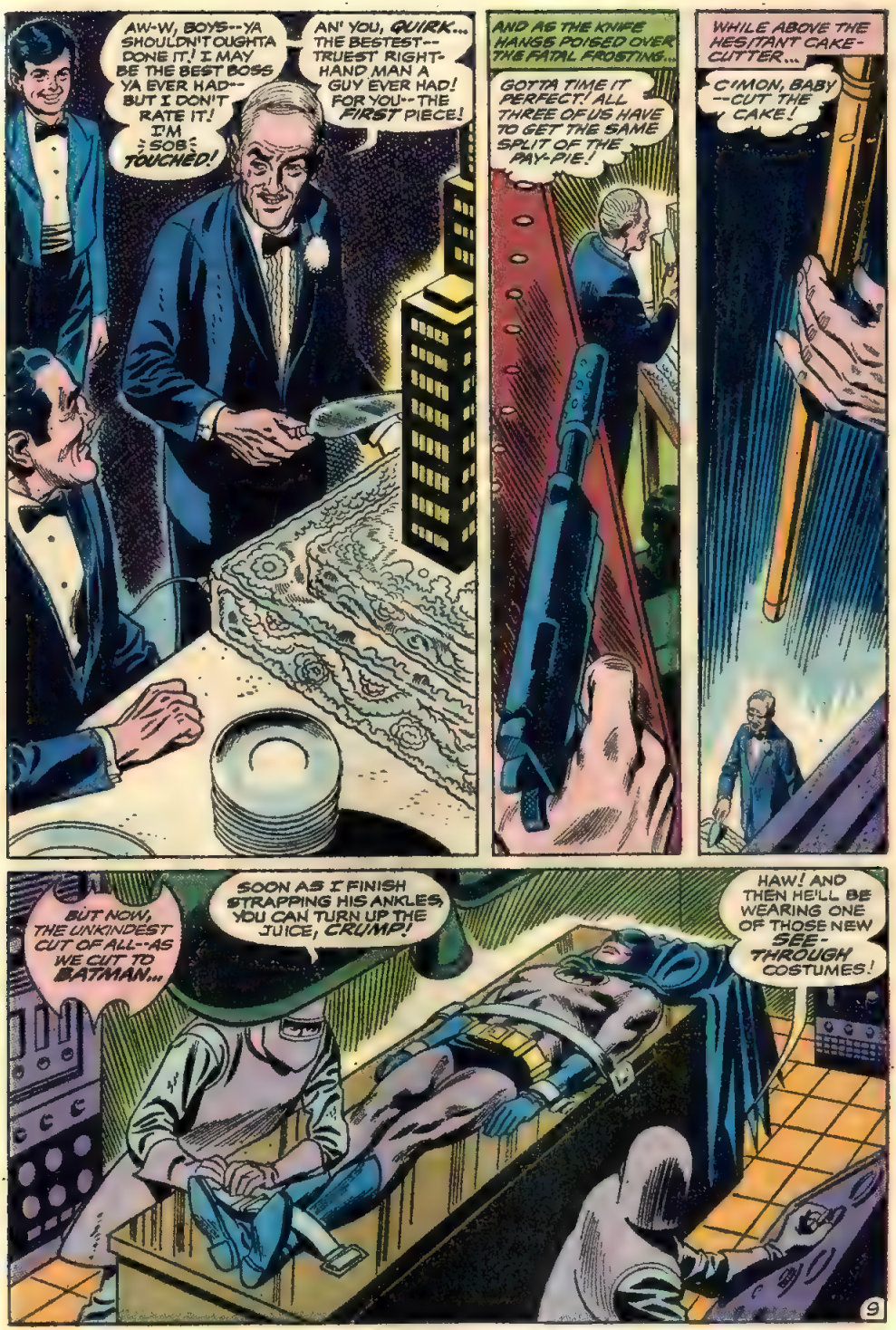
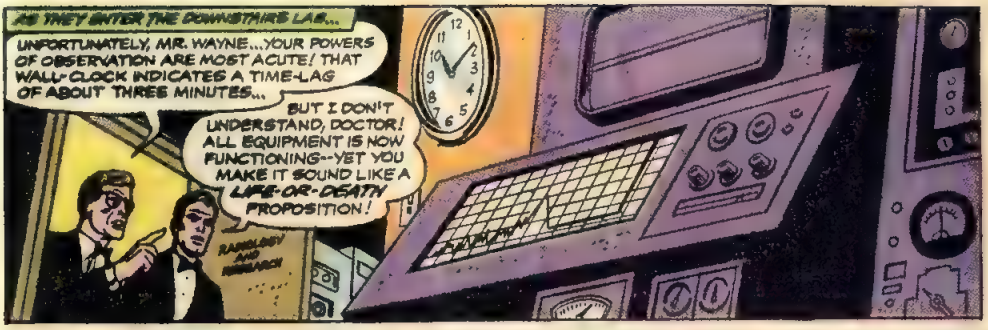
ON SALE APRIL 8th


AW-W, BOYS--YA SHOULDN'T OUGHTA DONE IT! I MAY BE THE BEST BOSS YA EVER HAD--BUT I DON'T RATE IT! I'M :SOB: TOUCHED!
AN' YOU, QUIRK... THE BESTEST--TRUEST RIGHT-HAND MAN A GUY EVER HAD! FOR YOU--THE FIRST PIECE!
AND AS THE KNIFE HANGS POISED OVER THE FATAL FROSTING...
GOTTA TIME IT PERFECT! ALL THREE OF US HAVE TO GET THE SAME SPLIT OF THE PAY-PIE!
WHILE ABOVE THE HESITANT CAKE-CUTTER...
C'MON, BABY --CUT THE CAKE!
BUT NOW, THE UNKINDEST CUT OF ALL--AS WE CUT TO BATMAN...
SOON AS I FINISH STRAPPING HIS ANKLES, YOU CAN TURN UP THE JUICE, CRUMP!
HAW! AND THEN HE'LL BE WEARING ONE OF THOSE NEW SEE-THROUGH COSTUMES!

BUT GROGGILY COMING OUT OF HIS STUPOR JUST IN TIME...
KAPOW!
UGH-H!
LUCKY I'M STILL FOOT LOOSE-- AND FANCY!
A TOPPLING-DOMINO CHAIN-REACTION ENSUES--
FZZT!
...AND THE ROOM BLACKS OUT!
KLIK!
AT THAT PRECISE INSTANT, LI'L STUDS QUIVERS CONVULSIVELY--HIS CAKE-KNIFE PLUNGING INTO THE LETHAL SHORT-CIRCUIT! INSTANTANEOUSLY, FATAL MISSILES CONVERGE ON HIM!
ZZZZT
KRA-AK
PHTTT
K-CHUFF

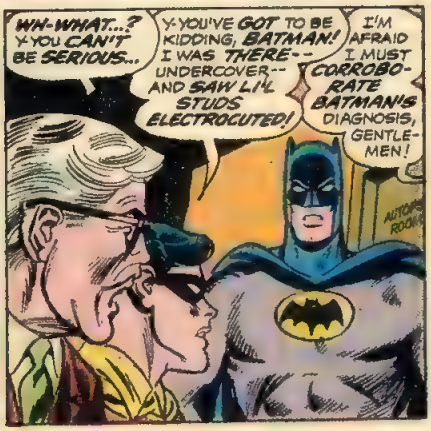
THE GANGLAND EXECUTION IS OVER IN A SPLIT SECOND--BEFORE A HORRIFIED DICK CAN REACT!
G-GOOD GRIEF! I GOOFED... IN SPADES! FORGOT THAT BIG JOLT'S SPECIALTY WAS--ELECTROCUTION!
HE WAS SHOT! I SAW A GUN-FLASH FROM THAT BOX!
UH-UH, QUIRK! HE GOT IT FROM A DART--AT THE BASE OF THE BRAIN!
I'M SURE HE WAS ELECTROCUTED--WE ALL SAW IT! GOT TO NAB BIG JOLT BEFORE HE GETS AWAY!
LISTEN, ALL OF YOU! I'M IN COMMAND NOW! I HATE TO SAY THIS, BUT WE BETTER CALL IN THE POLICE!
AFTER ALL--OUR HANDS ARE CLEAN!
HE'S GONE! BATMAN WILL HAVE MY HEAD!
BUT BATMAN HAS MANAGED TO CLEAR HIS HEAD, AND BREAK THE STRAPS THAT BIND HIM--JUST AS...
PWHAM
UNDERESTIMATED ME ONCE AGAIN, CREEP! GOT TO END THIS BLACK-OUT--WITH A BLACKOUT!

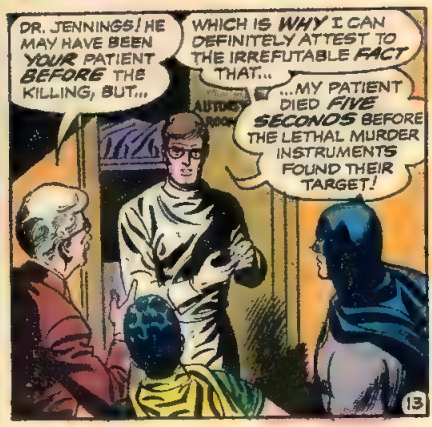
AND AS THE CAPED CRUSADER FINDS THE MASTER-SWITCH...
JUST 10:00 O'CLOCK! WON'T BE LATE FOR THE PRESENTATION AFTER ALL...
WAIT! THE CURRENT WAS OFF FOR SEVERAL MINUTES AT LEAST--THAT'S THE TIME IT STOPPED!
CLICK!
AS HE RACES OUT, OTHERS DRAWN BY THE NOISE OF FIGHTING ARRIVE...
THREE MINUTES PAST TEN! I AM LATE!
BATMAN! WHAT'S UP?
TWO THIEVES IN RADIOLOGY--TRIED TO STEAL RADIO-ACTIVE ISOTOPES! TAKE CARE OF THEM! I'M IN A HURRY!
MOMENTS LATER...
JUST MANAGED TO CHANGE BACK WITHOUT ANYONE SEEING!
SORRY TO BE LATE, DUSTIN! BIT OF A RUCKUS DOWNSTAIRS...
GLAD YOU'RE HERE, BRUCE! STALLED THE PROCEEDINGS AS LONG AS I COULD...
I COULDN'T HELP OVER-HEARING, MR. WAYNE! WHAT SORT OF RUCKUS...?
A BRIEF POWER-BLACKOUT IN RADIOLOGY-AND-RESEARCH, DR. JENNINGS, WHEN TWO BURGLARS...
A... WHAT?! HOW BRIEF, MAN?
TWO-THREE MINUTES, DOCTOR! BUT POWER'S BEEN RESTORED...
THAT SHORT TIME-LAPSE COULD BE DISASTROUS! ALL THE WORK OF YEARS--DOWN THE DRAIN IN MINUTES!
WHY DIDN'T THE AUTOMATIC STAND-BY POWER-PLANT CUT IN.
POSSIBLY BECAUSE THE CURRENT WAS SWITCHED OFF, RATHER THAN ACCIDENTAL FAILURE! BUT WHY DISASTROUS?
12

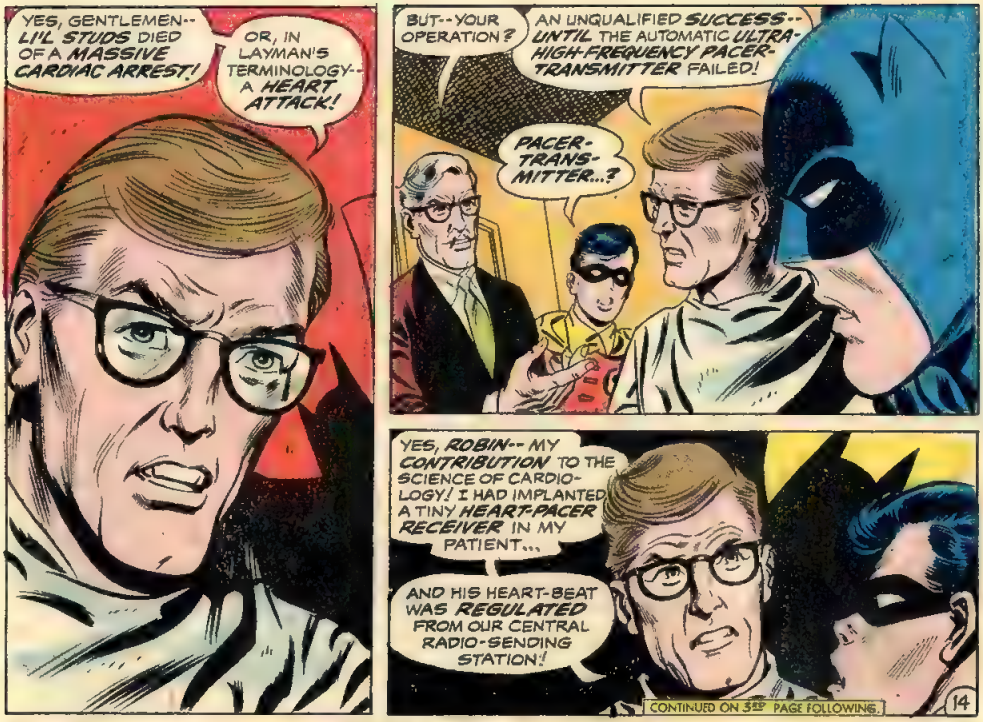

AS THEY ENTER THE DOWNSTAIRS LAB...
UNFORTUNATELY, MR. WAYNE...YOUR POWERS OF OBSERVATION ARE MOST ACUTE! THAT WALL-CLOCK INDICATES A TIME-LAG OF ABOUT THREE MINUTES...
BUT I DON'T UNDERSTAND, DOCTOR! ALL EQUIPMENT IS NOW FUNCTIONING--YET YOU MAKE IT SOUND LIKE A LIFE-OR-DEATH PROPOSITION!
RADIOLOGY AND RESEARCH

IT IS--OR WAS! I'M AFRAID THE OBJECT OF MY... ER "NOBLE EXPERIMENT"... IS DEAD!

LATER AT POLICE H.Q., FOLLOWING AN URGENT CALL BY COMMISSIONER GORDON...
AS YOU CAN SEE, BATMAN--THE CAUSE--OR CAUSES--OF DEATH ARE FAIRLY OBVIOUS! PREMEDITATED MURDER--BY AT LEAST THREE KILLERS!
CORRECTION, COMMISSIONER--THE VICTIM OBVIOUSLY DIED OF NATURAL CAUSES!


WH-WHAT...? Y-YOU CAN'T BE SERIOUS...
Y-YOU'VE GOT TO BE KIDDING, BATMAN! I WAS THERE--UNDERCOVER--AND SAW LI'L STUDS ELECTROCUTED!
I'M AFRAID I MUST CORROBORATE BATMAN'S DIAGNOSIS, GENTLEMEN!
AUTOPSY ROOM


DR. JENNINGS! HE MAY HAVE BEEN YOUR PATIENT BEFORE THE KILLING, BUT...
WHICH IS WHY I CAN DEFINITELY ATTEST TO THE IRREFUTABLE FACT THAT...
...MY PATIENT DIED FIVE SECONDS BEFORE THE LETHAL MURDER INSTRUMENTS FOUND THEIR TARGET!
AUTOPSY ROOM


YES, GENTLEMEN-- LIL' STUDS DIED OF A MASSIVE CARDIAC ARREST!
OR, IN LAYMAN'S TERMINOLOGY-- A HEART ATTACK!
BUT--YOUR OPERATION?
AN UNQUALIFIED SUCCESS-- UNTIL THE AUTOMATIC ULTRA-HIGH-FREQUENCY PACER-TRANSMITTER FAILED!
PACER-TRANS-MITTER...?
YES, ROBIN-- MY CONTRIBUTION TO THE SCIENCE OF CARDIO-LOGY! I HAD IMPLANTED A TINY HEART-PACER RECEIVER IN MY PATIENT...
AND HIS HEART-BEAT WAS REGULATED FROM OUR CENTRAL RADIO-SENDING STATION!
CONTINUED ON 5TH PAGE FOLLOWING.
14

Oh Boy! It's the
BIG RED BARON
New Groovy Custom Show Rod—Bigger Better, Wackier Than Ever!
Enjoy the fun of making and owning a bold and brassy Red Baron
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ON SALE APR. 17th

IMPOSSIBLE?

WITH The FLASH

ANYTHING IS POSSIBLE!

LETTERS TO THE BATCAVE

S-162

Dear Editor:

Tell me, O Puissant One! Am I going insane? Or was "Jungle Jeopardy" in *Batman* #209 *really* written by Frank Robbins? Why do I ask? Because it was a *perfect* story, the best *Bat*-tale ever written (except, perhaps, for those in the *Outsider* series) and certainly the finest piece of scripting that Mr. Robbins has ever done.

The great artwork of Novick-Giella helped, of course (in a comic the art makes the strongest initial impression), but it was the plot, well-executed, plausible, and *interesting*, that made the issue. Oddly enough, I don't know what I liked best about it. Perhaps it was the fact that there were no schizophrenic villains in it. The mob's attack on *Batman* and *Robin* was not unique—mind-gimmicks have been tried before—but it was carried off very realistically. No great blooping super-machine spraying the *Dynamic Duo* with mento-rays and the like, but a subtly diabolical *sublim* device was employed; furthermore, the crooks were everywhere at once setting up the maneuver. This created a *Mission: Impossible* effect that was most gratifying. On top of that, the final mistake *Mr. Esper's* gang made, the error of "showing" a tiger in an "African jungle," was the sort of mistake nine out of ten people might make. This increased the humanity of the villains quite a bit.

There were smaller touches, too, none the less worth mentioning. I loved Commissioner Gordon's "public face" —the apple-pie-sweetness-and-light manner he adopted when he spoke with a member of the voting populace (pgs. 5-6); I loved Alfred's show of very human emotions (for once!) when faced with his employer's apparent antipathy; I loved the settled, sensible tone of *Robin's* dialogue. But most of all, I loved the *lack* of poor *Aunt Harriet*, who doesn't belong in *Batman* and never will.

—*RAND B. LEE., Roxbury, Conn.*

(Included in your "nine out of ten people" who mistakenly believe that tigers are native to the African jungle, was the celebrated creator of Tarzan, *Edgar Rice Burroughs! Ever since we learned of this little-known fact we've been waiting for an opportunity to pull it off again in another yarn—and "Jungle Jeopardy" was it!*—Editor)

* * * * * *

Dear Editor:

No matter how often you use those splash panels on the second and/or third page, I still contend that they interrupt the flow of the story. The use of this technique in "Jungle Jeopardy" didn't help the story at all—in fact, it probably hurt it. I seriously doubt that *Batman*, upon opening the door of his elevator in the *Batcave* and seeing a tiger starting to leap at *Robin*, would say, "What insane scene is this?!" Indeed, the title, "Jungle Jeopardy" had so little to do with the story that it was criminal. No, I can't come up with a better title, but that is why I'm the fan and you're the editor.

Another atrocity was the absurd dialogue between Comm. Gordon and *Brainwash*. The moment he came in, Gordon jumped up from his desk and fell all over the criminal. Doubtless he would have given him the key to the city if he had asked for it. His speech about his being a public servant and his door being open all day made him sound like an office clerk, not the police commissioner. One of the few good points about the story was the nice artwork of Irv Novick and Joe Giella.

Peter Sanderson brought up some good points in this issue's EXTRA lettercol. The *Joker* should definitely be brought back as a murderer and blackmailer, not clown. I can't see anything wrong with depicting murder in a story as long as it is done without all the gory details. His laugh should be blood-curdling and eerie. The same thing goes for the *Scarecrow*, who could become one of *BM's* greatest foes if handled right. I don't believe *Batman* should swear off normal criminals, since they are so much more abundant than the weird ones, and figure to be tangled with more often. If they are ingenious enough, they can prove to be as interesting as any of *Batman's* time-honored foes.

—*BILL SHERMAN, Bloomfield, N.J.*

(On the assumption, Bill, that having spotted your name attached to this letter, you read it first of all, may we now direct your attention to the first critic and his reaction to the way Comm. Gordon greeted a "protesting citizen"! Won't you at least reconsider the police commissioner's "realistic" reception in the light of the story? Finally, you'll find an up-to-date Joker *in the June* Detective Comics; *we welcome comparisons with the vintage villain version.*—Editor)

* * * * * *

Dear Editor:

I am writing this letter as an apology. An apology because when I saw the cover of *Batman* #209, I was all set to *hate* "Jungle Jeopardy"! Then I bought the mag and read it—and all I can say is WOW! With the February issue you have started another great year for the *Caped Crusader*.

Now, on to the second point (Surely you didn't expect me to do nothing but rave?): I think Orin Kilkenny's letter contains some great ideas. Bruce Wayne *should* marry. And, as suggested, his wife should be killed by some evil baddie. He needs to be spurred on again. His original purpose is as stale as...well, you get the picture. One last point—please, at the end of each issue, give the reader an idea what's in store for him in the next issue; the way you forecast Catwoman's return in the current issue is the sort of thing I mean.

—*SCOTT GIBSON, Sterling, Colo.*

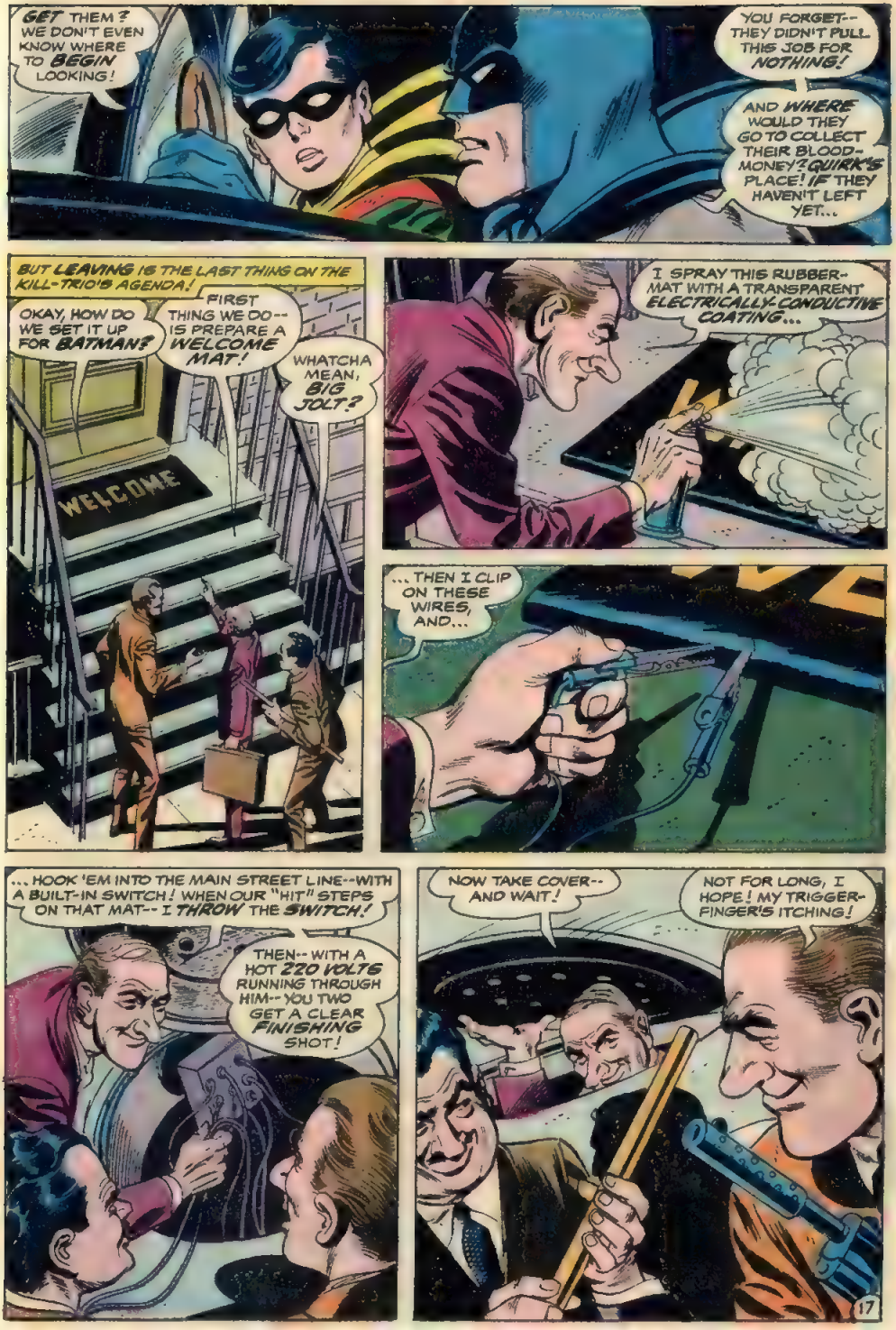
(All too often, when we close one issue we don't know what will open the follow-up one. In this instance, we are happy to blurb next issue's "Batman's Marriage Trap"—in which a new kind of revolt hits Gotham City—*and rocks it to its very foundations! An all-out campaign by the fair (?) sex to remove* Gotham's *most eligible male from circulation! We hope this grabs you enough to grab onto the August* Batman! *Oh, yes—for a more detailed discussion of the provocative Kilkenny letter, be sure to read this issue's LETTERS TO THE BATCAVE—EXTRA.*—Editor)

* * * * * *

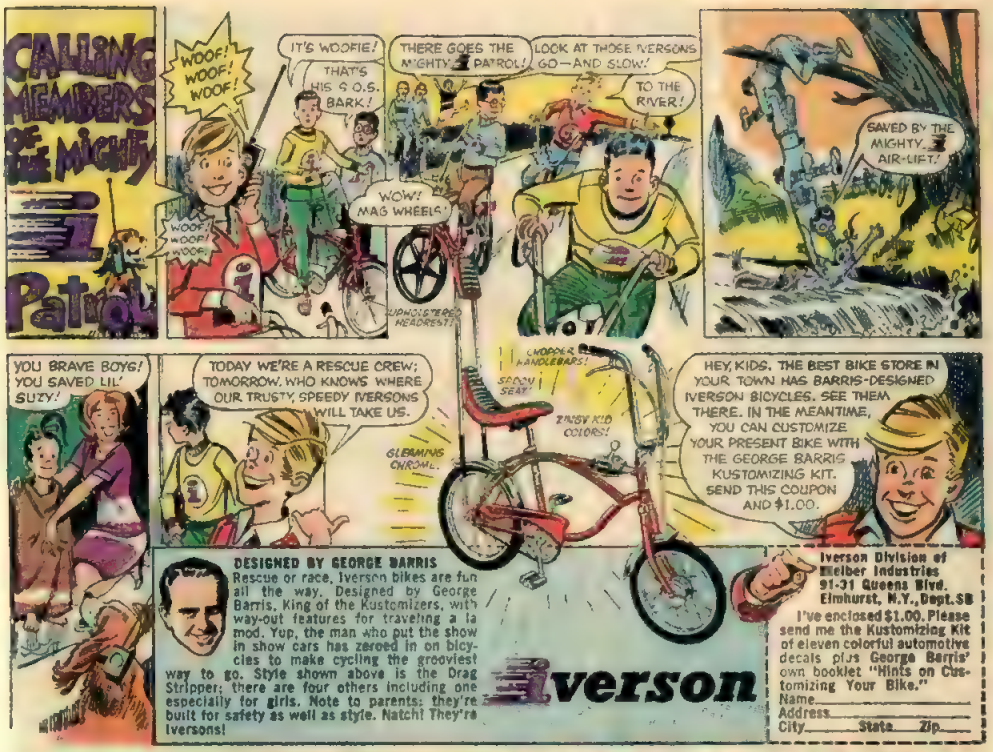
Address communications to LETTERS TO THE BATCAVE, National Periodical Publications, 909 Third Ave., New York, N.Y., 10022.

LATER, AT THE RESIDENCE OF THE NEW KING-PIN OF CRIME...
MR. QUIRK, SIR... THREE--ER--GENTLEMEN TO SEE YOU!
A BREEZE, BOSS--AS YOU SAW IN PERSON! WE TOOK CARE OF OUR "CLIENT"...
...SO NOW YOU TAKE CARE OF US!
IT WAS A PERFECT HIT! NO NOISE--NO MESS--NO...
...TONIGHT, OCCASIONED BY THE ASTUTE DETECTION OF THAT MASTER DETECTIVE, BATMAN--COMMISSIONER GORDON ANNOUNCED THAT LI'L STUDS DIED OF--NATURAL CAUSES!
...AND NO PAY! I DON'T SHELL OUT FOR A JOKER WHO WAS DEAD BEFORE YOU HIT HIM!
W-WHA...?
DEAD BEFORE...?
WE WUZ... DOUBLE-CROSSED!
NOBODY NEEDS YOU TO KILL A CORPSE! GET LOST!
AND AS A GRIM TRIO LEAVES...
DOUBLE-CROSSED BY BATMAN! WE GONNA TAKE IT LYING DOWN?
NAW... WE GIVE EACH OTHER A CONTRACT TO HIT BATMAN -- FOR FREE!
CHECK! WHEN THREE SPECIALISTS IN KILL GET TOGETHER, HOW CAN WE FAIL?
OKAY, NOW HOW DO WE FIND BATMAN?
WE DON'T! WE LET HIM FIND US!
YOU CRAZY? HOW DO WE GET THE JUMP ON HIM THAT WAY?
15

SIMPLE! WHO'S THE FIRST SUSPECT BATMAN'S GONNA CHECK INTO?
QUIRK! SO, ALL WE DO IS STAKE-OUT AROUND HIS HOUSE-- AND JUST WAIT!
AND YOU KNOW WHAT? IF WE KNOCK OFF BIG CRIME-FIGHTER, BATMAN, MAYBE WE COLLECT FROM QUIRK AFTER ALL!
WHILE AT POLICE H.Q....
DESPITE THE FACT THAT THE VICTIM DIED NATURALLY, COMMISSIONER... THE CASE IS STILL OPEN! "ATTEMPTED MURDER"-- BY THREE UNKNOWN PARTIES!
ACTUALLY TWO, SINCE ROBIN'S GIVEN YOU A LEAD TO ONE-- BIG JOLT!
CHECK! AND THE ODDS ARE THEY WERE HIRED BY ONE INTERESTED PARTY!
ONE WHO WOULD BENEFIT MOST BY LI'L STUDS' DEATH! AND THAT MUST BE...
THE NEW CHIEF OF GANGDOM-- QUIRK!
LET'S GO, ROBIN!
HOW DO WE TACKLE QUIRK, BATMAN? WE HAVE NO EVIDENCE AGAINST HIM-- CAN'T JUST WALK UP TO HIM AND ASK...
SURE CAN'T! BUT HE HAS AN ACHILLES HEEL-- THE MURDER-HEELS HE HIRED! IF WE CAN GET THEM TO TALK...
16


GET THEM? WE DON'T EVEN KNOW WHERE TO BEGIN LOOKING!
YOU FORGET-- THEY DIDN'T PULL THIS JOB FOR NOTHING!
AND WHERE WOULD THEY GO TO COLLECT THEIR BLOOD-MONEY? QUIRK'S PLACE! IF THEY HAVEN'T LEFT YET...
BUT LEAVING IS THE LAST THING ON THE KILL-TRIO'S AGENDA!
OKAY, HOW DO WE SET IT UP FOR BATMAN?
FIRST THING WE DO-- IS PREPARE A WELCOME MAT!
WHATCHA MEAN, BIG JOLT?
WELCOME
I SPRAY THIS RUBBER-MAT WITH A TRANSPARENT ELECTRICALLY-CONDUCTIVE COATING...
...THEN I CLIP ON THESE WIRES, AND...
...HOOK 'EM INTO THE MAIN STREET LINE--WITH A BUILT-IN SWITCH! WHEN OUR "HIT" STEPS ON THAT MAT-- I THROW THE SWITCH!
THEN-- WITH A HOT 220 VOLTS RUNNING THROUGH HIM-- YOU TWO GET A CLEAR FINISHING SHOT!
NOW TAKE COVER-- AND WAIT!
NOT FOR LONG, I HOPE! MY TRIGGER-FINGER'S ITCHING!

THE DEADLY ESCAPE-PROOF MANTRAP LAID, THE LETHAL TRIO TAKES UP HIDDEN VANTAGE POSITIONS...
AND MINUTES LATER...
SO WE'RE GOING TO HIT THEM HEAD-ON!
BEST WAY I CAN THINK OF TO TRAP THEM! STAY BEHIND ME, ROBIN...
BUT THE REAL TRAP IS ABOUT TO BE SPRUNG, AS...
BATMAN... AND ROBIN? NO MATTER-- THAT WELCOME MAT'S BIG ENOUGH FOR BOTH OF 'EM!
ALL SET, BOYS? THIS IS THE BIG-- PAY-OFF!
ZZZT
OFF
ON
CONTINUED ON 2 ND PAGE FOLLOWING
18


CALLING MEMBERS OF THE MIGHTY Z Patrol
WOOF! WOOF! WOOF!
IT'S WOOFIE! THAT'S HIS S.O.S. BARK!
THERE GOES THE MIGHTY Z PATROL!
LOOK AT THOSE IVERSONS GO—AND SLOW!
TO THE RIVER!
WOW! MAG WHEELS!
UPHOLSTERED HEADREST!
SAVED BY THE MIGHTY Z AIR-LIFT!
YOU BRAVE BOYS! YOU SAVED LIL' SUZY!
TODAY WE'RE A RESCUE CREW; TOMORROW, WHO KNOWS WHERE OUR TRUSTY, SPEEDY IVERSONS WILL TAKE US.
GLEAMING CHROME!
CHOPPER HANDLEBARS!
SPOON SEAT
ZINGY KID COLORS!
HEY, KIDS. THE BEST BIKE STORE IN YOUR TOWN HAS BARRIS-DESIGNED IVERSON BICYCLES. SEE THEM THERE. IN THE MEANTIME, YOU CAN CUSTOMIZE YOUR PRESENT BIKE WITH THE GEORGE BARRIS KUSTOMIZING KIT. SEND THIS COUPON AND $1.00.
DESIGNED BY GEORGE BARRIS
Rescue or race, Iverson bikes are fun all the way. Designed by George Barris, King of the Kustomizers, with way-out features for traveling a la mod. Yup, the man who put the show in show cars has zeroed in on bicycles to make cycling the grooviest way to go. Style shown above is the Drag Stripper; there are four others including one especially for girls. Note to parents: they're built for safety as well as style. Natch! They're Iversons!
Iverson
Iverson Division of Meiber Industries
91-31 Queens Blvd.
Elmhurst, N.Y., Dept. SB
I've enclosed $1.00. Please send me the Kustomizing Kit of eleven colorful automotive decals plus George Barris' own booklet "Hints on Customizing Your Bike."
Name
Address
City State Zip

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WORTH $1.10
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Free Ride BATMAN SLIDE
Free Ride CAROUSEL

AS THE CURRENT RUSHES INTO THE CONDUCTIVE MAT...!
BATMAN...?!
D-DON'T... T-TOUCH... M-ME! I-I'M...H-HOT!
UFF!
PFT!
BUT SIMULTANEOUSLY...
KTHUNK
KCHOW
GOTTA...BREAK... LOOSE! IF I... FALL...
OOOH...
CHONK!
19

A BRIEF MOMENT OF SILENCE AS THE DYNAMIC DUO LIES MOTIONLESS ON THE STEPS, AND THEN...
EVERYBODY OUT! WE GOT 'EM!
DID WE EVER-- YOW! LET'S CHECK 'EM...
...BEFORE WE PUT THE BITE ON QUIRK FOR THE REWARD-- MONEY ON BATMAN'S HEAD!
-78
AS TRAINED HUNTERS THEY WARILY CIRCLE THEIR FALLEN PREY...
YE-AH, ONLY THIS TIME TIN-HORN QUIRK PAYS OFF FOR A JOB WE DID RIGHT!
HE CAN'T SAY THEY DIED OF-- NATURAL CAUSES!
IF THEY'RE REALLY DEAD! YOU JERK'S-- LOOKA THE DOOR! YOUR DART-- AND SLUG--
BUT BIG JOLT'S SUDDEN REALIZATION COMES TOO LATE, AS...
I'VE HEARD ABOUT ALL I WANTED TO HEAR! YOU TOO, ROBIN?
KNONG
KNOCK!
YEP, BATMAN-- IT'LL STAND UP IN COURT!
(CONTINUED ON 2ND PAGE FOLLOWING.)
20

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YOU'LL FIND
LOTS of LAUGHS
and FUN GALORE
with this WONDERFUL ASSORTMENT
of
BARGAINS

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		TOTAL PRICE	

SORRY WE CANNOT SHIP ORDERS FOR LESS THAN $1.25 ADD 6¢ FOR POSTAGE AND HANDLING ON ALL ORDERS
I ENCLOSE ..... IN FULL PAYMENT. NO C.O.D.'S
(PLEASE PRINT)
NAME .....
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CITY ..... STATE ..... ZIP .....
CANADIAN AND FOREIGN ADD 10% PER ORDER. U.S. INT'L MONEY ORDER.

RUBBER BAT
This Rubber Bat comes with a suction cup that when stuck on the wall or bed on the bed will cause brother but grief to the poor victim who should just lay pass he walk in unexpectedly.
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"POSITIVELY ASTONISHING"

SAY PEOPLE WHO HAVE SEEN THIS COLLECTION. YOU'LL BE PLUCKING COINS FROM THIN AIR! YOU'LL CAUSE CARDS TO CHANGE THEIR SPOTS AT YOUR COMMAND! YOU'LL HEAR THE GASPS OF WONDER AS YOU DO THE WORLD-FAMOUS "INDIAN ROPE TRICK." YOU'LL ACTUALLY DO OVER **238** BAFFLING TRICKS, INCLUDING:

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- THE MIND READING TRICK
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- PHANTOM WRITING
- GROWING MONEY TRICK
- THE COIN LEAPING TRICK
- DISAPPEARING HANDKERCHIEF
- THE KNOT THAT UNTIES ITSELF
- THE DISAPPEARING COIN
- MAKING A BALL ROLL BY ITSELF
- MIRACLE CARD JUMPING TRICK
- THE PHANTOM MONEY TRICK, etc.

ANYONE... 6 TO 60... CAN PERFORM THESE FEATS OF MAGIC... ONCE YOU KNOW THEIR SECRETS!

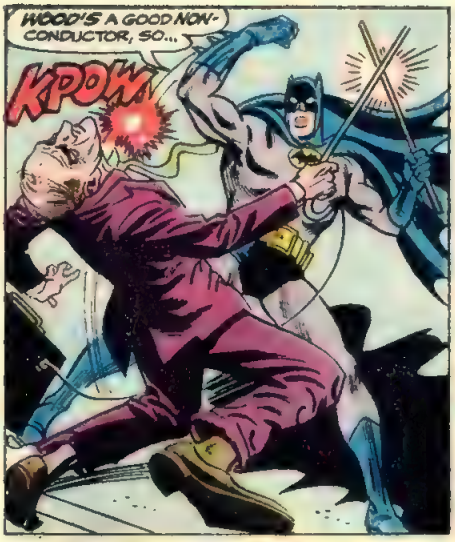
COMPLETE SECRETS REVEALED!

EVERY SINGLE TRICK FULLY EXPLAINED! YOU SAW SOME OF THEM ON T.V. MANY WERE PERFORMED BY SUCH MASTER MAGICIANS AS HOUDINI, THURSTON, etc. AND NOW... YOU CAN DO ALL OF THESE FAMOUS MAGIC TRICKS. THEY'RE FUN!

MAIL TODAY!
MAGIC TRICKS 69
P.O. BOX 397 - ROCKVILLE CENTRE, N.Y.

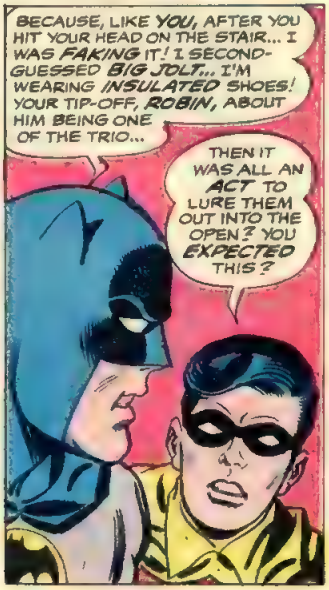
RUSH ME MY MAGIC TRICKS FOR WHICH I HAVE ENCLOSED 75¢.
Send me 3 for only $2.25 (check here) ☐
SATISFACTION GUARANTEED. NO C.O.D.'s
(PLEASE PRINT INFORMATION BELOW)
Name .....
Address .....
City ..... State ..... Zip .....
CANADIAN & FOREIGN 90¢ EACH INT'L MONEY ORDER

YOU NEED THE WIND KNOCKED OUT OF YOU-- BLOW-HARD!
KCHUFF-- PHAH!
PCHOCK!
HEAR FROM YOUR HANDI-WORK YOU'RE THE STRONG-- SILENT-- TYPE, SO...
MPH!
KWANG!
YOU WON'T TOUCH ME, JUNIOR!
ZZZT!
ZPAK
OWTCH!
WATCH IT, BATMAN! IT'S AN ELECTRIFIED CANE!
WELL, MAYBE WE BETTER SHORT-CIRCUIT HIM!
21


WOOD'S A GOOD NON-CONDUCTOR, SO...
KPOW

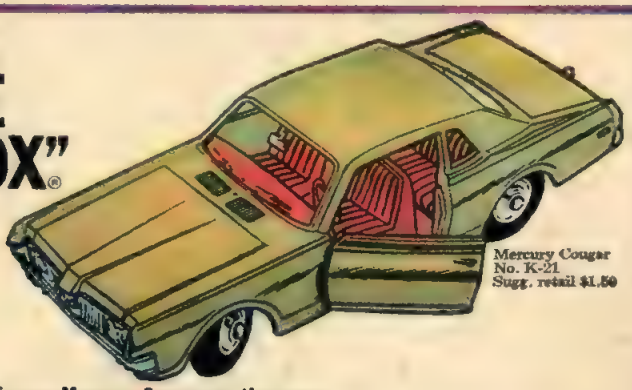
ZZT
ZAP!

OUT--LIKE A LIGHT! GUESS HE FORGOT TO SWITCH OFF HIS WELCOME MAT...
...MEANT FOR US!
WHICH REMINDS ME --HOW DID YOU GET OVER YOUR SHOCK SO FAST?


BECAUSE, LIKE YOU, AFTER YOU HIT YOUR HEAD ON THE STAIR... I WAS FAKING IT! I SECOND-GUESSED BIG JOLT.. I'M WEARING INSULATED SHOES! YOUR TIP-OFF, ROBIN, ABOUT HIM BEING ONE OF THE TRIO...
THEN IT WAS ALL AN ACT TO LURE THEM OUT INTO THE OPEN? YOU EXPECTED THIS?

IT DAWNED ON ME THAT OUR KILL-SQUAD MIGHT NOT GET PAID, BECAUSE LI'L STUDS DIED NATURALLY! AND SINCE I BROKE THE CASE, THEY'D BE LAYING FOR ME!
I SPOTTED THE ELECTRIC-CLIPS ATTACHED TO THE MAT--AND SINCE BIG-JOLT'S TRADE-MARK WAS ELECTROCUTION...

NEW KING-SIZE "MATCHBOX"® MODEL OF THE MONTH.



Mercury Cougar
No. K-21
Sugg. retail $1.50

Detroit better watch out with this new Mercury Cougar on the scene.

It's as authentic as can be. With doors that really open, true-guide steering and independent suspension. And that beautiful metallic gold paint job is sure to make everybody sit up and take notice. Keep your collection up to the minute. New models are out all the time. And to be a real "MATCHBOX" expert write for the free catalogue.

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Dear Editor:

Perhaps I should not feel that I have any right to criticize your publication since I am only an avid reader but have never written or illustrated any fine stories as you continue to do. Lately, on the *Batman* (and *Detective*) covers there have been melodramatic illustrations depicting all sorts of ridiculous scenes such as *Robin* being a law-breaker, *Robin* hating *Batman, Batman* becoming a death-row inhabitant, and assorted covers featuring ideas of hate, cruelty, distrust, and law-breaking between the *Dynamic Duo*. I was not at all surprised to see on the cover of *Batman* #209 that *Batman* turned into a tiger that is planning to tear *Robin* apart. Eventually, I fear I may see *Robin* murdering *Batman* and *Batman's* ghost hanging *Robin*—on the cover, of course. All this is very annoying and you all deserve twenty lashes with a wet noodle.

It is clearly understood by me that not every reader daily visits the newsstand of his choice to be sure not to miss an issue (as I do). I realize that you want to attract attention and purchasers with vivid, exciting covers and splash pages. This is no excuse for covers and splashes that glorify hate between *Batman* and *Robin* (or anyone for that matter; but that is a whole different story). Please—*Batman* and *Robin* are close, close friends. There is no good reason to have "Damon and Pythias" turn into bitter foes for the sake of an attention-getting device.

Thank you for taking time to read this. I should have told you first that regardless of the cover I found #209 of *Batman* to be superb in content and entertainment. It also had a story that supported the fact that *Batman* and *Robin* need each other and get along great.

—*ALICE IRMA, Richmond Hill, N.Y.*

(Strange that you should rip into us for "law-breaking, hate-filled" cover-splashes by "violently" inflicting twenty lashes (albeit with a wet noodle)—which does as much harm to us as we believe those covers/splashes do to the reader.—Editor)

* * * * * *

Dear Editor:

In the February EXTRA lettercol, Orin Kilkenny put forth five "inconsistencies" he had discovered in *Batman* over the years, and asked the inevitable question *Why?* Ye Editor urged all fandom to reply. Well, here I am.

The first "inconsistency" pointed out was the fact that *Batman's* bat-apparel doesn't strike terror into the hearts of criminals any more, as it was supposed to in the beginning, whereas his reputation does. This, I hold, is only natural. Bruce Wayne chose his costume back in the non-intellectual days when kids under twelve months were the only children who read comics. It was very easy *then* to give such a lame excuse for a costume, because the readers weren't interested in petty details and *everybody* knew that criminals were a "cowardly, superstitious lot". Nowadays (and I may sound now-generation-smug, but it's true), DC readers are a lot pickier, and a lot more discerning. Today any crook who saw a guy flapping down the street in bat-wings and long johns would laugh himself silly, *until* he got to know how dangerous that "weirdo" was. DC changes with its public, Mr. Kilkenny, so I doubt if you'll see any more cowardly, superstitious crooks. (Neurotic, yes; cowardly, no.)

The second "inconsistency" was that *Batman*, who's supposed to be human, never makes a mistake. There is a good reason for this. *Batman* doesn't exist, and he never did! He is a fictitious character. (He does have human weaknesses, by the way; see the latest *Batman Giant.*) If DC started having a *Batman* who fell over his own feet every time he turned around, its readership would plummet. Let's face it, most people are mental and physical klutzes; what makes *BM* a super-hero is that he *isn't*.

The third "inconsistency" was that the criminals in *Batman* never gain by their crimes, and that there are no murders. There's also a good reason for this, namely, the Comics Code. Crime doesn't pay—at least, that's the saying—and DC has to follow it in every story. That's also why you don't see many DC heroes getting clobbered by the villains, unless the story's a two-parter. As for the second objection, it's a bit erroneous. There *have* been murders in *Batman*, but not too many—again, I think, because of the CC. (And they aren't really necessary. You want murders, read the *Times*.)

The fourth "inconsistency" was that Bruce Wayne isn't out on the town enough; i.e., his playboy image is suffering. I agree. It is. However, Mr. Wayne "is a confirmed old bachelor and very likely to remain so"; and anyway, we read *Batman* to see *Batman*, not girls.

The last point Mr. Kilkenny made was a very valid one, and I'm surprised that no one has mentioned it before. Bruce's original reason for being *Batman* (the murder of his parents) does seem to have worn thin, seeing that they died thirty years ago. (The same goes for *Robin*.) But we're dealing in comic-magazine time, don't forget, not real time. Bruce Wayne and Dick Grayson haven't aged one single year since they donned their fighting garb, and they never will. Oh, there have been a few changes, but to all intents and purposes, they're immortal. Having their memories of their parents' murders slip away from them would be like having *Little Orphan Annie* start going out on dates: it's *impossible*.

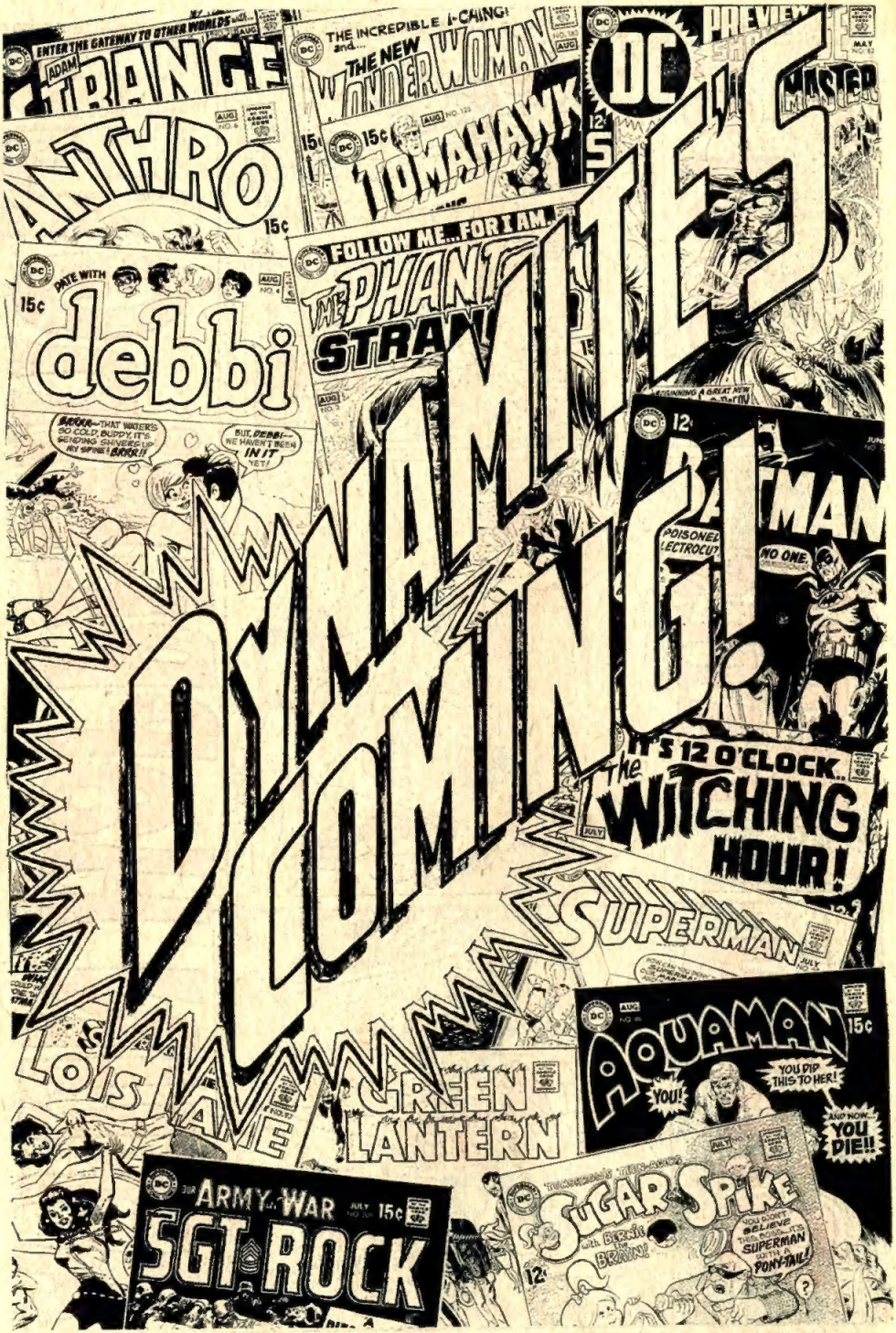
—*RAND B. LEE, Roxbury, Conn.*

* * * * * *

Address communications to LETTERS TO THE BATCAVE—EXTRA, National Periodical Publications, 909 Third Ave., New York, N.Y., 10022.

DEBBI'S DATES
12¢
JULY
NO. 7
DEBBI, LOOK AT BUDDY! AFTER YOU JUST HAD THAT FIGHT WITH HIM YOU'D THINK HE'D BE BROKEN UP!
HE WILL BE IN A MINUTE!
ON SALE APRIL 15th

A FUN HAPPENING FROM DC


DYNAMITE COMING!
ENTER THE GATEWAY TO OTHER WORLDS with... ADAM STRANGE
THE INCREDIBLE I-CHING! and... THE NEW WONDER WOMAN
ANTHRO
TOMAHAWK
DC PREVIEW
MASTER
FOLLOW ME... FOR I AM... THE PHANTOM STRANGER
DATE WITH debbi
BRRRR—THAT WATER'S SO COLD, BUDDY, IT'S SENDING SHIVERS UP MY SPINE! BRRR!!
BUT, DEBBI!—WE HAVEN'T BEEN IN IT YET!
BATMAN
POISONED ELECTROCUTED
NO ONE
IT'S 12 O'CLOCK.. the WITCHING HOUR!
SUPERMAN
LOIS LANE
GREEN LANTERN
AQUAMAN
YOU!
YOU DID THIS TO HER!
AND NOW YOU DIE!!
ARMY WAR SGT. ROCK
SUGAR SPIKE
YOU DON'T BELIEVE THIS IS SUPERMAN WITH A PONY-TAIL!

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A list that tells you where to send for free samples. Books, foreign stamps, coins, maps, showtickets, toys, films, posters, etc. They are yours for the asking. Hundreds of $$$ worth of free offers.

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FLY IN ICE

Scare your friends! Just drop this life-like ice cube with a fly inside it into someone's drink and watch his eyes pop-ugh.

No. F-16 . . . . only 15c

PEPPER GUM

Hi, buddy, want a piece of gum? Hot-pepper gum makes mouth burn but is completely harmless-a million laughs for parties, etc.

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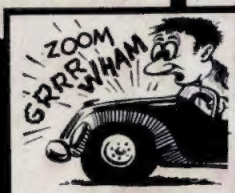
only 20 c



PRANKSTER WHISTLE

Greatest gag in years. Just place inside any tail-pipe and watch the fun. As soon as he starts the car it will sound as if the whole motor fell out. It's a panic, but completely harmless.

No. F-22 . . . . . only 75c

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LOUD NOSE BLOWER

Get roars of laughter -- insert this 'nose blower' in your handkerchief and blow. It sounds like the roof caved in! Really a riot!

No. F-23 . . . only 25c

TRICK BLACK SOAP

Looks like regular bar of soap. Watch your friends wash their faces -- in horror as faces get blacker and blacker. Completely harmless -- washes off with regular soap. Real fun!

No. F-26 . . . . . only 25c

Don't back away from anyone -- again! This popular book tells you how to defend yourself against ANYONE--even bullies, plus many pictures showing accurate details. 'FREE' book on strong man stunts also included.

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BINOCULAR EYEGLASSES

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JOY BUZZER

Shake hands and watch your friends jump 6 feet high. Completely harmless

No.F-21 only 65c

SPY 'SPECS'

A wonderful illusion to fool your buddies. Put them on, now is that really his skull you see inside his head? Prove to him you can see through anything.

No. F-19 . . . . only $1.00

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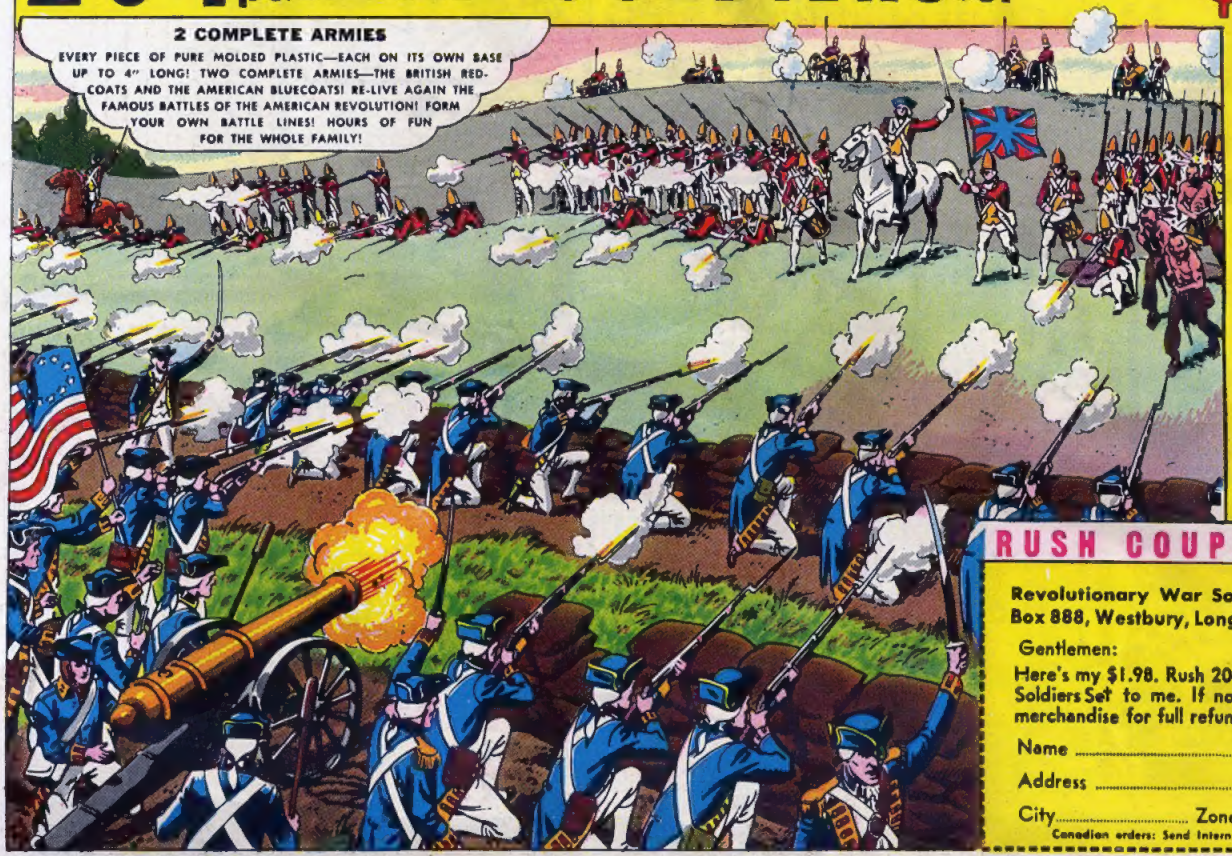

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